

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 L-03 FAA-00

DOT-00 EB-07 /064 W

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O R 291650Z AUG 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1378

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1787

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, EAIR, US, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT: DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY IN BASC

REFS: (A) LONDON 13324; (B) STATE 204204;

(C) USBERLIN 1730; (D) BONN 13857;

(E) BONN 14146

1. FRENCH BASC ELEMENT HAS INFORMED US CHIEF CONTROLLER
AUG 29 THAT BRITISH GOVT ON AUG 28 TURNED DOWN RECENTLY
RENEWED FRENCH REQUEST TO ASSUME CONTROL OVER NORTH
CORRIDOR. FRENCH ARE STILL CONSIDERING BRITISH
COUNTERPROPOSAL TO DIVIDE RESPONSIBILITY ACCORDING
TO NATIONALITY.

2. IN VIEW OF IMMINENT SHIFT OF SCHEDULED SERVICE TO
TEGEL SEPT 1, THREE WESTERN ELEMENTS HAVE AGREED TO
INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS IN BASC. BETWEEN 0600 AND 2200
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LOCAL TIME FRENCH WILL HAVE TWO OFFICERS ON DUTY IN

BASC OPERATIONS ROOM. MORE SENIOR OF TWO WILL BE CONCERNED SOLELY WITH RELAY OF INFO TO AMERICAN OR BRITISH CONTROLLER. OTHER FRENCH CONTROLLER WILL FULFILL LONG-STANDING FRENCH ROLE OF RECORD KEEPING.

3. FRENCH HERE DETERMINED NOT TO RELINQUISH CONTROL OF INFO BY ALLOWING INSTALLATION OF TELEPHONE LINES UNTIL DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY RESOLVED IN MANNER WHICH WILL GRANT THEM GREATER ROLE.

4. IN WORST CASE, IF INTERIM SYSTEM IN BASC LEADS TO DELAYS IN PASSING INFO TO SOVIETS, RESULTANT DELAYS IN AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS COULD CREATE AN AIR SAFETY PROBLEM. DELAYS OF OUTBOUND AIRCRAFT WILL MERELY INCONVENIENCE PASSENGERS, WHICH IS BAD ENOUGH IN ITSELF, BUT INBOUND AIRCRAFT MIGHT HAVE TO GO INTO HOLDING PATTERN AT CORRIDOR ENTRY POINTS IN CROWDED FRG AIR SPACE WHERE BASC LACKS AUTHORITY AND BARTCC HAS NO CONTROLLER RESPONSIBILITY. SUCH SITUATION COULD LEAD TO AIR SAFETY PROBLEM OVER FRG DUE TO UNEXPECTED ORBITING BY INBOUND AIRCRAFT.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE CONFIDENT FRENCH HERE HAVE MADE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT ENSURE SMOOTH PASSAGE OF FLIGHT INFO AFTER SEPT 1, BUT ENTIRE SITUATION LEADS US TO CONCLUDE THAT RESOLUTION OF NORTH CORRIDOR VS. NATIONAL CONTROL ISSUE AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE FROM EVERY STANDPOINT. GEORGE

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